

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following independent claim:

40. A torsional vibration damper, comprising:

a primary mass adapted to be coupled to an engine crankshaft for rotation about a rotational axis of the engine crankshaft, the primary mass defining a substantially ring-shaped chamber that is divided into at least two portions;

a secondary mass rotatable relative to the primary mass and connectable thereto by a clutch; and

a damping unit for coupling the primary and secondary masses to each other in a rotationally elastic manner, wherein the damping unit comprises,

a plurality of elastic members situated in series and disposed one after the other within the divided portions of the ring-shaped chamber,

a pair of end guides slidably disposed within each divided portion of the ring-shaped chamber and supporting outer ends of the end elastic members among the plurality of elastic members, and

a plurality of friction members slidably disposed between neighboring elastic members,

and wherein each of the plurality of the friction members is a wedge-shaped friction member that comprises an inner wedge and an outer wedge that are elastically supported by the neighboring elastic members such that the outer and inner wedges move in opposite directions.